**Emma’s Self Reflection**

I was really excited to start project at the start of the first 6 months and was happy to be working with Jo (who I had worked successfully with previously) and Mike (who Jo had worked with before). I believed we all had skills we could offer to project.

After our project changed direction after the first six months I was still optimistic about the outcome and was even more excited by the idea of a light show on the side of a building.

Some restrictions that we faced were time and equipment. With a more powerful (and much more expensive) projector we could have produced a light show with more vivid colours on a wider a project that was more suited to a year time frame.

I did not enjoy working in the project room as I found it to be a hostile environment, but this has been my experience most of the way through my degree. I do not know if this is because I am an older student or because I am female but it has hampered my ability to study at times. There is no way of remedying this relating to the project room in particular that I can see other than addressing respect for fellow students in project class times.

As our project was a light show we found ourselves doing most of our testing at night which was quite an interesting dynamic but I found it quite fun. I did not find that the time of year (it being winter and very cold) hampered us at all and it actually helped to prove the versatility of the product.

This project has enhanced my experience at Otago Polytechnic by providing me with an in depth real life experience that I can take with me in to my future career. I found that Software Engineering was a good introduction to the agile methodology and team dynamics. Without Software Engineering I do not believe that I would have been able to transition in to the project paper so smoothly and a lot of time would have been wasted getting familiar with the agile technicalities.

In the future I will feel better able to work in a group on a project after dealing with the interesting personal dynamics in our team. I feel that the project paper is an extremely important and essential part of this degree in this aspect.